

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) inserted the following statement in the Congressional Record following a House vote on a resolution concerning the violence in Gaza:

"I have a long record of supporting Israel and I have no intention of reversing course. My wish continues to be that Israel will one day soon enjoy a lasting peace with its neighbors.

"The resolution before the House today is not an easy vote for me. I refuse to vote nay because I continue to support Israel's right to exist and to defend itself. But I cannot vote yea because in the midst of a humanitarian nightmare in Gaza, this resolution is silent on the need for an immediate cease-fire and the need to actively relieve human suffering.

"The resolution is right to condemn the rocket attacks against Southern Israel. These attacks are crimes against humanity. The Hamas rockets endanger thousands of lives, terrorize the Israeli populace and deny the people of Israel and Gaza the peace they both deserve.

"However, to introduce a resolution in the midst of a raging war that has the impression of assigning blame does not measure up to the moment.

"We're watching another desperate episode in the cycle of Middle East violence, yet our call for a cease-fire is timid.

"We're watching human suffering at a stomach-turning scale, and our call to relieve suffering is weak.

"A spasm of violence is consuming lives and we're failing to do all that we can to be honest brokers of peace.

"I agree with almost all the language in this resolution, so I cannot vote against it. However, I cannot vote in favor of the resolution because it does not do enough to set the stage for lasting peace. My conscience dictates a vote of present, which is the only vote for peace."

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